

# Parallel Corpora based Translation Resources Extraction

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**Resumen:** Este artículo describe NATools, un conjunto de herramientas de procesamiento, análisis y extracción de recursos de traducción de Corpora Paralelo. Entre las distintas herramientas disponibles se destacan herramientas de alineamiento de frases e palabras, un extractor de diccionarios probabilísticos de traducción, un servidor de corpus, un conjunto de herramientas de interrogación de corpora y diccionarios y así mismo un conjunto de herramientas de extracción de recursos bilingües.

**Palabras clave:** corpora paralelos, recursos bilingües, traducción automática

**Abstract:** This paper describes NATools, a toolkit to process, analyze and extract translation resources from Parallel Corpora. It includes tools like a sentence-aligner, a probabilistic translation dictionaries extractor, word-aligner, a corpus server, a set of tools to query corpora and dictionaries, as well as a set of tools to extract bilingual resources.

**Keywords:** parallel corpora, bilingual resources, machine translation

## 1 Introduction

NATools is a package with a set of tools for parallel corpora processing. It includes tools to help parallel corpora preparation, from sentence-alignment and tokenization, to full probabilistic translation dictionary extraction, word-alignment, and translation examples extraction for machine translation.

Follows a list with some of the available tools:

- a simple parallel corpora sentence aligner based on the algorithm proposed by (Gale and Church, 1991) and in the Vanilla Aligner implementation by (Danielsson and Ridings, 1997);
- a probabilistic translation dictionary (Simões and Almeida, 2003; Simões, 2004) extractor based on PTD Extractor based on work by (Hiemstra, August 1996; Hiemstra, 1998);
- a parallel corpora word-aligner (Simões and Almeida, 2006a) based on probabilistic translation dictionaries;
- NatServer (Simões and Almeida, 2006b), a parallel corpora server for quick concordances and probabilistic translation dictionary querying;
- a set of web clients to query parallel corpora using NatServer;
- tools for machine translation example extraction (Simões and Almeida, 2006a) based on probabilistic translation dictionaries and alignment pattern rules;

- A full C and Perl API for quick parallel corpora tools prototyping;
- a StarDict generation software;
- support for `Makefile::Parallel` (Simões, Fonseca, and Almeida, 2007), a Domain Specific Language for process parallelization (to take advantage of multi-processor machines and/or cluster systems).

This paper consists of three main sections. The first one explains how NATools helps preparing parallel corpora. Follows a section on querying parallel corpora both using a corpora server and using web interfaces. The third section is about using NATools for parallel resources extraction like translations examples.

## 2 Parallel Corpora Preparation

To create and make available a parallel corpora is not a simple task. In fact, this process does not depend just on the compilation of parallel texts. These texts should be processed in some different ways so it can be really useful. Important steps include the text tokenization, sentence boundaries detection and sentence alignment (or translation unit alignment). NATools include (and depends) on tools to perform these tasks.

### 2.1 Segmentation and Tokenization

While NATools does not include directly tools for segmentation and tokenization, it depends on `Lingua::PT::PLNbase`<sup>1</sup>, a Perl module for based

<sup>1</sup><http://search.cpan.org/dist/Lingua-PT-PLNbase>.

segmentation and tokenization for the Portuguese language. While it was developed with the Portuguese language in mind, through the time more and more support for Spanish, French and English has been incorporated. Thus, after installing NATools you will have access to the Perl module directly or using NATools options for segmentation and tokenization.

## 2.2 Sentence Alignment

The NATools sentence aligner uses the well known algorithm by (Gale and Church, 1991). Work is being done to include some clue-align (Tiedemann, 2003) information into the original algorithm, taking advantage of numbers and other non-textual elements in sentences in addition to the basic sentence length metrics.

While Gale and Church algorithm is known for not being robust enough for big corpora with big differences in number of sentences, the truth is that it works for most available corpora.

Also, note that NATools do not force the user to use the supplied sentence-aligner (or tokenizer). For instance, we are using *easy-align* from IMS-CWB (Christ et al., 1999) to perform sentence alignment on big corpora. Unfortunately *easy-align* is not open-source and the used algorithm is not described in any paper, but it uses not only the base length metrics but also uses other knowledge like bilingual dictionaries to perform better alignment.

## 2.3 Corpora Encoding

This is the only required step on using NATools. It performs the corpora encoding and creates auxiliary indexes for quick access. Two lexicon indexes are created (one for each language), mapping an integer identifier for each word. The corpora is codified using these integer values, and indexes for direct access by word and sentence are created. There are other tools to index corpora. Examples are Em-dros (Petersen, 2004) and IMS-CWB (Christ et al., 1999). While the first one is freely available, it is intended for monolingual corpora. In the other hand, IMS-CWB is not open software.

## 2.4 Probabilistic Translation Dictionaries Extraction

This process extracts relationships between words and their probable translations. Some researchers (Hiemstra, August 1996) call this word-alignment. Within NATools, we prefer to call it probabilistic translation dictionaries (PTDs).

There are other tools like Giza++ (Och and Ney, 2004) that perform word-alignment directly from parallel corpora, but that is not our approach. Our dictionaries map for each word in a language, a set of probable translations on the other language (together with an translation probability). Follows a simple example of a PTD:

1	<b>** europe (42853 occurrences)</b>	
2	europa:	94.71 %
3	europæus:	3.39 %
4	europæu:	0.81 %
5	europæia:	0.11 %
6	<b>** stupid (180 occurrences)</b>	
7	estúpido:	17.55 %
8	estúpida:	10.99 %
9	estúpidos:	7.41 %
10	avisada:	5.65 %
11	direita:	5.58 %
12	impasse:	4.48 %

Note that although the first three entries for the *stupid* word have low probabilities, they refer to the same word with different inflections: masculine singular, feminine singular and masculine plural.

The algorithm based on Twente-Aligner (Hiemstra, August 1996; Hiemstra, 1998) was fully reviewed and enhanced, and was added support for big corpora (Simões, 2004). The version included in NATools supports arbitrary size corpora (only limited by disk space), and can be run on parallel machines and clusters.

NATools probabilistic dictionary extraction is being used for bilingual dictionary bootstrapping as presented by (Guinovart and Fontenla, 2005).

## 3 Querying Parallel Corpora

To make parallel corpora available for querying is not easy as well. After the encoding process described on section 2.3, there is the need for a server to help searching and querying the encoded corpora. Thus, NATools includes its own parallel corpora server.

### 3.1 NatServer: A Parallel Corpora Server

NATools includes NatServer, a socket-based program to query efficiently parallel corpora, corpora n-grams (bigrams, trigrams and tetragrams) and probabilistic translation dictionaries. It supports multiple corpora with different language pairs.

Given the modular implementation of NatServer, the C library can be used for other software and namely for NATools Perl API (Application Programmer Interface). This makes it easy for any software choose at run-time if it will use the socket server or access locally the encoded corpora. This is specially important for intensive batch tasks where the socket-based communication is a big over-head regarding performance.

NatServer is also being prepared to be responsible of the server part of Distributed Translation Memories (Simões, Guinovart, and Almeida, 2004),

a Webservice to serve translators with external translation memories.

### 3.2 Query Tools

Linguistics and translators make heavy use of parallel corpora and bilingual resources. Meanwhile, they use simple applications or web interfaces. There are parallel corpora available for querying in the web like COMPARA (Frankenberg-Garcia and Santos, 2001; Frankenberg-Garcia and Santos, 2003) or Opus (Tiedemann and Nygaard, 2004), and they are quite used. Thus, it is important to provide mechanisms to make our parallel corpora available in the Web as well.

NATools include a set of web tools for concordances with translation guessing (see figure 1) and probabilistic translation dictionary browsing (see figure 2).

The web interface lets the user swap between concordances and dictionaries in an easy way, as well as to check corpora details (description, languages, sizes and so on).

## 4 Parallel Resources Extraction

NATools main objective was not to be a final-user software package, but instead, be a toolbox for the researcher that uses parallel corpora. Thus, research is being done using NATools and some of resulting applications are being incorporated in the toolbox. The probabilistic translation dictionaries presented in section 2.4 by themselves are useful parallel resources. They were presented earlier because they are crucial for querying correctly NATools corpora.

### 4.1 Terminology Extraction

(Och, 1999; Och and Ney, 2004) describes methods to infer translation patterns from parallel corpora. In our work we found out that to describe translation patterns and apply them to parallel corpora gives interesting results: bilingual terminology.

Translation patterns describe how words order change when translation occurs. For instance, we can describe a simple pattern to describe how the adjective swaps with the substantive when translating from Portuguese to English as<sup>2</sup>:

$$\mathcal{T}(A \cdot B) = \mathcal{T}(B) \cdot \mathcal{T}(A)$$

A bit complicated pattern:

$$\mathcal{T}(P \cdot de \cdot V \cdot N) = \mathcal{T}(N) \cdot \mathcal{T}(P) \cdot of \cdot \mathcal{T}(V)$$

is presented on figure 3 visually. NATools includes a Domain Specific Language (DSL) to define these patterns in a easy way. The last example shown can be written as "P "de" V N = N P "of" V".

<sup>2</sup>Note that letters on these patterns do not have any special meaning. They are just variable names.

	alternative	sources	of	financing
fontes		X		
de			Δ	
financiamento				X
alternativas	X			

Figure 3: Translation Pattern example.

Although these patterns can be inferred from parallel corpora most of them can be defined manually quite faster and with good results. Figure 4 show some extracts from terminology extracted. Each group is preceded by the rule. Numbers before the terminology pairs are the occurrence counter for that pair.

Note that the examples are the top five in number of occurrences. Although they are all good translations and they can all be considered terminology, this does not apply to all the extracted examples. Meanwhile, the DSL lets add morphological constrains and Perl predicates to the pattern. With these constrains it is quite easy to remove from the extracted entries those which are not terminology.

We did a massive test of terminology extraction using EuroParl (Koehn, 2002) Portuguese:English corpus. Table 1 shows some statistics on number of patterns extracted<sup>3</sup>.

Total number of TUs	1 000 000
Number of processed TUs	700 000
Number of patterns found	578 103
Number of different patterns	139 781
Number of filtered patterns	103 617

Table 1: Terminology extraction statistics.

Table 2 shows the occurrence distribution by some patterns. The third column is a simple evaluation of how many patterns are really terminology and are correct. Evaluation was done with three samples: the 20 patterns with more occurrence, the 20 patterns with lower occurrence, and 20 patterns in the middle of the list.

### 4.2 Word Alignment and Example Extraction

While Word Alignment and Example Extraction are different tasks, the base algorithm used in NATools is the same. The word alignment is done for each pair of translation units creating a matrix of

<sup>3</sup>The number of translations units processes is not equal to the total number of translations units because at the time these statistics were reported the process did not have finished.

NAT-QI: NATools Corpora Query Interface

Help

Corpus: EuroParl-PT-EN

Search

Search on PT language:

☐ Pattern Matching
 

Result-set size

Search on EN language:

☐ Horizontal Mode

EuroParl-PT-EN

meta-information

#	%	Source Language	Target Language	Tool
1		não se pode explorar os trabalhadores nuns países, enquanto na <b>Euroapa</b> se protege os seus direitos .	We cannot exploit workers in some countries while protecting their rights in <b>Europe</b> .	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		No que diz respeito aos navios de passageiros e aos navios mercantes , que são segmentos fortemente concorrenciais e grandes utilizadores de mão-de-obra , devemos , também aqui , preservar e desenvolver a notável especialização e as excelentes capacidades de que os estados-membros dispõem , em lugar de as deixar partir da <b>Euroapa</b> .	As regards the construction of passenger and merchant vessels , both highly competitive , labour-intensive sectors , here too the Member States ' remarkable expertise and outstanding capabilities must be protected and developed and not allowed to go outside <b>Europe</b> .	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		A concluir , Senhor Presidente , Senhor comissário , se a comissão Europeia deseja realmente contribuir para o progresso da indústria da construção naval na <b>Euroapa</b> , basta-lhe defender claramente o princípio do comércio equitativo aquando das negociações no âmbito da OMC , dar aos estados-membros a liberdade de intervir directamente neste sector estratégico para reorientar do ponto de vista tecnológico determinados estaleiros navais em segmentos de mercado mais dinâmicos , favorecer a cooperação entre empresas do sector para contribuir para a melhoria da eficácia global de cada um dos diferentes tipos dos nossos estaleiros navais e , por último , no quadro da política comum da pesca , tomar as decisões que se impõem para permitir a renovação controlada da nossa frota de pesca , a perenidade da especialização dos nossos estaleiros e a vitalidade , Senhor Presidente , das nossas regiões marítimas dependentes da pesca .	In conclusion , Mr President , Commissioner , if the European Commission really wishes to make a contribution to the expansion of the shipbuilding sector in <b>Europe</b> , it is enough for it to clearly defend the principle of fair trade at the WTO talks , to leave Member States the freedom to intervene directly in this strategic sector in order to convert shipyards , by means of technological modifications , for activity in profitable market sectors , to promote cooperation between businesses in order to contribute towards improving the overall efficiency of each type of shipyard and , finally , in the context of the common fisheries policy , to take the necessary decisions to enable the controlled renewal of our fishing fleet , the continuation of the expertise of our shipyards and the vitality , Mr President , of our coastal regions which are dependent on fishing .	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		O facto de a <b>Euroapa</b> estar a ficar sem indústria de construção naval é um factor preocupante .	The fact that <b>Europe</b> will end up with no shipbuilding industry is worrying .	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		Mas até mesmo os poucos navios que hoje navegam arvorando um pavilhão europeu têm de ser construídos fora da <b>Euroapa</b> , pois acontece	But even the few ships which sail under the European flag are not to be manufactured outside <b>Europe</b> , because it appears we have to	<input type="checkbox"/>

Figure 1: Concordances interface.

**NATools Probabilistic Dictionaries Browsing Interface**

Help

Search corpus EuroParl-PT-ES source language target language explicar

☒ compact mode

---

**EuroParl-PT-ES**

about

**explicar (1229)**

Level 1	Level 2							
79.51 % <b>explicar</b> (1290)	<b>explicar</b> 86.53 %	(null) 3.53 %	qué 1.10 %	explicaciones 0.90 %	estimadas 0.84 %	acclarando 0.57 %	daende 0.57 %	postendo 0.57 %
3.42 % <b>aclarecer</b> (1409)	<b>aclarar</b> 76.88 %	<b>explicar</b> 3.82 %	(null) 1.61 %	<b>aprobamos</b> 1.37 %	<b>precisar</b> 1.37 %	<b>claro</b> 1.35 %	<b>saber</b> 1.33 %	<b>precisión</b> 1.14 %
1.30 % <b>explicado</b> (115)	<b>explicado</b> 55.78 %	<b>explicar</b> 15.76 %	<b>infractor</b> 6.37 %	<b>ello</b> 5.99 %	<b>indica</b> 5.67 %	<b>comprensible</b> 2.52 %	<b>tanta</b> 1.58 %	<b>explicarse</b> 1.25 %
1.28 % <b>dada</b> (2807)	<b>dada</b> 37.17 %	(null) 27.16 %	<b>habida</b> 4.48 %	<b>dar</b> 2.49 %	<b>cuenta</b> 2.17 %	<b>se</b> 2.07 %	<b>explicar</b> 1.80 %	<b> dará </b> 1.59 %
0.55 % <b>explica-se</b> (41)	<b>concedidas</b> 16.85 %	<b>justifica</b> 9.02 %	<b>explicar</b> 8.73 %	<b>adosado</b> 8.68 %	<b>ampliamente</b> 8.66 %	<b>explica</b> 5.48 %	<b>ascenso</b> 5.36 %	<b>definitivos</b> 4.95 %
0.55 % <b>evitá-los</b> (8)	<b>explicar</b> 38.94 %	<b>mucho</b> 25.12 %	<b>sucedan</b> 11.85 %	<b>tenido</b> 5.20 %	<b>es</b> 4.99 %	<b>por</b> 3.69 %	<b>evitarlos</b> 3.65 %	<b>hemos</b> 3.00 %
0.49 % <b>justificar</b> (772)	<b>justificar</b> 87.85 %	<b>justifique</b> 2.65 %	<b>falta</b> 1.80 %	<b>justifican</b> 1.44 %	(null) 1.10 %	<b>explicar</b> 0.87 %	<b>timo</b> 0.77 %	<b>responsable</b> 0.29 %
0.46 % <b>esclarecer-nos</b> (27)	<b>explicar</b> 13.90 %	<b>esté</b> 12.35 %	<b>aclarar</b> 10.11 %	<b>normativas</b> 6.78 %	<b>crear</b> 6.08 %	<b>iluminarnos</b> 5.12 %	<b>fuera</b> 4.62 %	<b>lógicas</b> 4.53 %

Figure 2: PTDs query interface.

	Pattern	Occur.	Quality
	A B = B A	77 497	86%
	A <i>de</i> B = B A	12 694	95%
	A B C = C B A	7 700	93%
	H <i>de</i> D H = H D I	3 336	100%
	A B C = C A B	1 466	40%
P	<i>de</i> V N = N P <i>of</i> V	564	98%
P	<i>de</i> T <i>de</i> F = F T P	360	96%

Table 2: Patterns occurrences by type, and respective quality.

translation probabilities as shown on figure 5. In this matrix one can see direct translations between word and some marked patterns. As these patterns are hopefully terminology, we are considering them as a term, and as such, aligning it all with another term. From this matrix we can extract the

real word-alignment between these two translation units.

For the example in the figure, it would be extracted the alignments: *discussão:discussion, sobre:about, fontes de financiamento alternativas:alternative sources of financing, para:for, a:the, aliança radical europeia:european radical alliance.*

The truth is that single word translations are already present on the probabilistic translation dictionaries, and thus there is no advantage on extracting the word-to-word relation.

The alignment matrix can also be used to extract examples. If we join sequences of words (or terms) and their translations, a set of word sequences can be extracted (examples). Again, for the matrix shown, we can extract more relationships, like *discussão sobre:discussion about, sobre fontes de financiamento alternativas:about alteran-*

1	A B = B A	
2	14949 comunidades europeias	european communities
3	12487 parlamento europeu	european parliament
4	11645 comunidade europeia	european community
5	10055 união europeia	european union
6	7705 jornal oficial	official journal
7	P "de" V N = N P "of" V	
8	134 comunicação de acusações alterada	revised statement of objections
9	55 comunicação de acusações inicial	initial statement of objections
10	49 tribunal de justiça europeu	european court of justice
11	45 fontes de energia renováveis	renewable sources of energy
12	41 período de tempo limitado	limited period of time
13	A "de" B = B A	
14	3383 medidas de execução	implementing measures
15	2754 comité de gestão	management committee
16	1163 plano de acção	action plan
17	1050 certificados de importação	import licences
18	1036 sigla de identificação	identification marking

Figure 4: Bilingual terminology extracted by Translation Patterns.

	discussion	about	alternative	sources	of	financing	for	the	european	radical	alliance	.
discussão	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sobre	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
fontes	0	0	0	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
de	0	3	0	0	27	0	6	3	0	0	0	0
financiamento	0	0	0	0	0	56	0	0	0	0	0	0
alternativas	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
para	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	0
a	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	33	0	0	0	0
aliança	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	0
radical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	0	0
europeia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	0	0	0
.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80

1	399 às hour	hour
2	187 orçamento de year	year budget
3	136 int euros	eur int
4	135 int euros	eur int
5	127 directiva de year	year directive
6	51 orçamento year	year budget
7	46 int de setembro	september int
8	31 partir de year	year onwards
9	29 convenção de year	year convention
10	26 eleições de year	year elections
11	25 período year-year	year-year period
12	25 int dólares	usd int
13	24 relatório de year	year report

Figure 5: Word-alignment matrix.

*tive sources of financing, fontes de financiamento alternativas para:alternative sources of financing for, para a:for the, a aliança radical europeia:the european radical alliance.* This process can be repeated, resulting in bigger examples. This step is important to generate more examples occurrences and thus give more importance for those with bigger occurrence.

Figure 6 shows some examples extracted using this methodology. These examples can be consolidated (summed accordingly with their occurrence count) and be used for machine translation or computer assisted translation.

### 4.3 Example Generalization

Based on work from (Brown, 2000; Brown, 2001), we are incorporating generalization algorithms into NATools. One simple generalization is the detection of numbers, hours and dates. Follows some examples generalized using this technique.

Although these patterns can be useful they are not as interesting as if could create place-holders for words. If we analyze similar entries in the examples listing we can find entries differing just in a few words like the following example.

1	2 povo português	portuguese people
2	2 povo paraguaio	paraguyan people
3	2 povo nigeriano	nigerian people
4	2 povo mexicano	mexican people
5	2 povo marroquino	moroccan people
6	2 povo mapuche	mapuche people
7	2 povo indígena	indigenous people
8	2 povo holandes	dutch people
9	2 povo húngaro	hungarian people
10	2 povo hmong	hmong people

This can be generalized creating automatically a class for the differing words (in this case we used gentilic). Given two different classes with a big number of similar members we can join them expanding the initial number of examples.



1	raw examples	
2	protocolo para prevenir	protocol to prevent
3	, reprimir e punir o	, suppress and punish
4	tráfico de pessoas	trafficking in persons
5	e em particular de	, especially
6	mulheres e crianças	women and children
7	consolidated examples	
8	35736 tendo em conta	having regard
9	11304 tratado que institui	treaty establishing
10	10335 das comunidades europeias	of the european communities
11	8789 institui a comunidade europeia	establishing the european community
12	8424 e , nomeadamente	and in particular
13	8224 , a comissão	, the commission
14	8142 redacção que lhe foi dada pelo	amended by
15	7352 à comissão	to the commission
16	7072 a comissão das	the commission of
17	6870 pela comissão	for the commission
18	6540 todos os estados-membros	all member states
19	6400 pela comissão	by the commission
20	6379 considerando que ,	whereas ,
21	5409 regulamento é obrigatório	regulation shall be binding
22	5400 adoptou	has adopted this

Figure 6: Translation examples.

```

1 povo X: gentilic(X)      T(X) people
2 governo X: gentilic(X)   T(X) govern

```

#### 4.4 StarDict generation

Although we are in the Internet era, there are a few people without Internet access at home, or working offline on a laptop. For these people, to access the online query system is not possible. Specially for non computer-science researchers, there is important to make dictionaries and some concordances available easily.

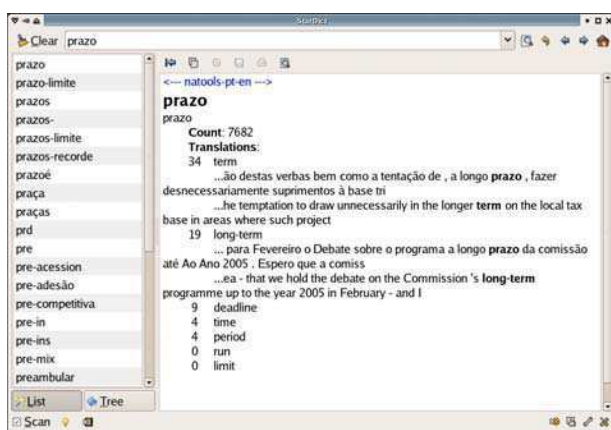


Figure 7: StarDict screen-shot.

With this in mind we created a tool to generate StarDict (Zheng, Evgeniy, and Murygin, 2007) dictionaries with probabilistic translation dictionary information and for each possible translation a set of three concordances.

```

1 use NAT::Client;
2
3 $client = NAT::Client->new(
4     crp => "EuroParl-PT-EN");
5
6 $client->iterate(
7     { Language => "PT" },
8     sub {
9         my %param = @_;
10
11         for $trans (keys %{$param{trans}}) {
12             if ($param{trans}{$trans} > 0.1) {
13                 $concs = $client->conc({
14                     concordance => 1,
15                     $param{word}, $trans);
16                 $stardict{$param{word}}{$trans}
17                     = $concs->[0];
18             }
19         }
20     });
21
22 print StarDict($stardict);

```

Figure 8: Perl code to create a StarDict dictionary.

This tool was also an exercise to see how versatile the NATools API was. The basic structure of the dictionary to be translated to StarDict can be created using just some lines of Perl code (see figure 8).

The process is done iterating over all the entries in the probabilistic translation dictionary. For each entry we grab concordances for each probable translation (with association above 10%).

## 5 Conclusions

While a lot of work needs to be done within NATools, most for efficiency, being open-source makes it easier. Any researcher can contribute with code, submit bugs reports, and get some support freely.

The whole NATools framework proved to be robust enough for different sized corpora. It was tested with Le Monde Diplomatique (PT:FR) (Correia, 2006), JRC-Acquis (PT:ES,PT:EN,PT:FR) (Steinberger et al., 2006) and EuroParl (PT:ES,PT:EN:PT:FR) (Koehn, 2002). All these corpora are available for querying in the Internet.

NATools include some other small tools not described in this paper. For instance, there is a set of small tools that grew up as experiences and where maintained in the package as tools to compare probabilistic translation dictionaries, tools to rank (or classify) translation memories accordingly with their translation probability, and others.

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